



Information for care after a skin biopsy

Shave vs Punch Biopsy:

The main difference in after-care between a shave and punch biopsy is the presence of sutures. A shave biopsy does not have sutures and will heal on its own. A punch biopsy can have 1-2 sutures that require a return visit for suture removal typically within 1-2 weeks. Visits for suture removal and wound checks are at no additional cost.

After care:

If possible, your bandage should stay clean and in place for 24 hours. After 24 hours, cleanse the site with warm soapy water once a day. Always wash your hands with soap and water prior to cleaning the biopsy site. Do not use loofahs, sponges, or washcloths. Pat dry the area after washing, then apply Vaseline/petroleum jelly; if needed, cover with a non-stick gauze pad and/or a bandage. Do not use bacitracin, Neosporin, or polysporin. Continue cleaning and changing the dressing until the site is completely healed or 10-14 days from the biopsy.

Take Tylenol for pain as directed on the package. A small amount of discomfort is normal following the procedure. If any bleeding is noted, apply pressure to the area for 15 minutes. Please call the office if bleeding does not stop within 15 minutes.

Restrictions:

You may return to daily activities and exercising. Avoid swimming and use of a hot tub for 3 days.

Signs of infection:

Possible signs of infection include fever, expanding redness, worsening pain, swelling, increased warmth at the biopsy site, or draining pus. If you have any concerns about signs of infection, please call our office. If you have not been contacted about your biopsy results within 2 weeks, please call the clinic.

Processing Fee:

Your biopsy will be sent out to be tested by a pathologist. There is a processing fee from either Clin-Path or Sagis (these are the two companies we use). If you have concerns or questions about billing, please reach out to them directly (you will get a separate bill from them in the mail within 30-60 days).